

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action dated March 28, 2005, claims 26-30, 32, 66-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly unpatentable over Boykin et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0078461. Claims 31, 33-56, 69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Boykin et al. in view of Lahr et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0046405. Claims 31, 33-56, 69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Boykin et al. in view of Lahr et al. and further in view of Rao et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,078,929.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a) based on Boykin and Lahr

A Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 is submitted to swear behind Boykin et al., which has a filing date of December 14, 2000, and Lahr et al., which has a filing date of January 21, 2001. The Rule 131 Declaration and the associated exhibits remove the Boykin and Lahr references as prior art. Accordingly, all the pending claims are believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason,

that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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